



Travis County Historical Commission

Travis County Historical Commission
Minutes of November 10, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010, in the Commissioners' Courtroom of the Granger Building. Chairman Barry Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Members present: Patti Hansen, Rosemary Morrow, Norah Jackson, Bill Beare, Bob Ward, Vonnye Rice-Gardner, Barry Hutcheson, Marty Moulthrop, Nancy Hamilton, Margie Alford, Sarah Harriman and May Schmidt.

Members Absent: David White, Margarine Beaman, Carolyn Jones, Faith Weaver, Vicky Worsham, Jane Manaster and Adrienne Isom.

CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION: None.

CALL, RECEIVE INFORMATION, TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON:

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS: None.

MINUTES: The minutes of October 13, 2010, were approved on a motion by Vonnye Rice-Gardner, seconded by Patti Hansen, and passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Since our last meeting there have been several events, including two marker dedications on October 23 – Rosehill Cemetery and the Sing Family Home. At the latter event we received a new marker cover custom-made by Torf Torfason, husband of Sarah Harriman. He made two sizes for large and small markers. Barry expressed our appreciation for Torf's efforts. Several Commission members attended Travis County History Day on October 15, which we co-sponsored. The members felt that this event needs more publicity next year and that our TCHC website should include a Calendar of Events, so that occasions like History Day can be listed. Patti Hansen remarked that our new camera should be used for photos and videos at marker dedications and other functions, for inclusion on our website, as well as for the County archives. Another event last month was the centennial of the Hood's Texas Brigade monument on the Capitol grounds, which Barry attended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nancy Hamilton reported that there is no change in our budget. We still have \$200 for training and \$100 for travel.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Marty Moulthrop

Marker Applications: Marty recommended two applications for approval: Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority House and Maxey Pleasant Grove Cemetery. The Zeta House was seconded by Patti Hansen and passed. The Maxey Cemetery was seconded by Nancy Hamilton and passed. Marty noted that these are the last two applications for 2011, since the deadline is November 15, bringing our total to 5 this year.

Untold Markers: Bob Ward has found a little information on the Mitchell House. It is not clear if the THC wants us to do the research or if they plan to do it themselves. Marty will write to the marker staff at THC and get an answer on this, as well as find out what research they have on hand.

DEDICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: David White was absent.

Dedications: None scheduled.

Marker Maintenance: Barry noted that at the recent dedication ceremonies, our microphone did not work. He has found that it cannot be fixed and recommended that it be replaced. He has an estimate of \$167.00 for a new microphone. May Schmidt moved that the Commission authorize up to \$200 for the purchase of a new microphone. The motion was seconded by Sarah Harriman and passed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Margie Alford

Margie noted that she has sent an article on Bruno Schmidt to The Medallion, the THC's monthly newsletter, and it has been received by the editor. Schmidt's daughter has the video of his presentation at a 1997 Travis CHC meeting on local churches. Bruno Schmidt's 100th birthday is January 13, 2011. Margie and Barry will talk to the County about proclaiming "Bruno Schmidt Day".

PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Patti Hansen

African American/Mexican American Schools:

In the absence of Margarine Beaman, there was no report on the African American Schools book or the Mexican-American Schools Project. However, it was noted that in a report on Esperanza School by a local historian, no Hispanic children are known to have attended it. Bill Beare stated that he has found in his research that there were no Mexican-American schools west of I-35; many of the schools were north and east of town, where families lived and picked crops.

History of Travis County Historical Commission: No report.

By-laws revision: No report.

Travis County Historical Commission website:

No website changes have been made recently, so Patti Hansen will provide an update to the County web team. Bob Ward will take a corrected CD to the web team for the Northeast Austin Survey Report. We discussed having all reports on the website, if possible.

Essay Contest: Vonnye Rice-Gardner reported that photos of last year's ceremony have been put on DVD. This year's award ceremony will be December 7th, in Building G, at ACC's Riverside Campus. Vonnye will write a blurb to be added to the Composition I and II syllabi to make the essay contest part of the semester assignment. She has already arranged this with ACC's Dean of Communications.

CLG Committee Report: Bob Ward stated that the committee will make a presentation to the Travis County Commissioners on November 16 on the Rural Manor Project. The committee has also applied for a new grant for the Webberville Corridor Project.

CORRESPONDENCE, OTHER BUSINESS: All members present handed in their reappointment applications, which were then notarized by Bill Beare.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Barry announced that the newly renovated Texas Library & Archives Building will host an open house on November 12 at 11:00 a.m. Address: 1201 Brazos. This was a two-year \$20 million project. The speaker will be well-known historian and author H. W. Brands.

Preservation Texas has an intern who is interested in doing historical research. It was suggested that this Commission ask her to help with research on the Untold Markers. She will be present at the December meeting.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS: None.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Moulthrop
Interim Secretary